

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

200
news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release July 31, 1980

Joy Davis 202/343-5634

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE ANNOUNCES REGION,
AREA OFFICE CHANGES TO IMPROVE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Geographic boundaries of several U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service area offices will be changed October 1, 1980, following an extensive review of the agency's field office structure and resource management responsibilities.

The changes will not involve additional personnel or funds, or the opening, closing, or relocating of any area offices. They are being made to consolidate responsibilities and to improve coordination with other Federal and State agencies.

The realignment will change two regional boundaries in the Midwest. The Kansas City, Missouri, Area Office will be transferred from the authority of the regional office in Denver, Colorado, to the regional office headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Under this change, the Kansas City, Missouri, Area Office will be responsible for activities in Missouri, Illinois, and Iowa. These changes will consolidate primary management activities for the Mississippi Flyway--one of four major routes used by migratory birds in the spring and fall--under one regional office. The responsibility for activities in Kansas will be transferred to the supervision of the Pierre, South Dakota, Area Office.

The agency's West Virginia activities, formerly under the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Area Office, will be managed by the Annapolis, Maryland, Area Office, which is already responsible for activities in Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Virginia. Virginia and West Virginia share a large border and similar resources, including endangered species and freshwater fisheries served by National Fish Hatcheries in both States.

(over)

Area offices under the direction of the regional office in Portland, Oregon, will also be realigned. The Boise, Idaho, Area Office will assume resource management responsibilities in Nevada and Idaho. These two States share several major concerns, including Great Basin migratory birds, animal damage management operations, and desert fish and plants. Activities in Washington and Oregon, which have similar coastal characteristics, will be consolidated into the Olympia, Washington, Area Office. The Boise and Olympia offices will continue to share responsibility for managing resources in the Columbia River Basin, with administration divided along the natural boundaries of the Columbia River in Washington and Oregon, and the Snake River in Idaho.

The reorganization leaves the Sacramento Area Office responsible for California activities alone. The change will enable the office to deal more effectively with California's complex conservation problems, which require coordination with numerous other agencies.

x x x